

## MARY ANDERSON HOME AGAIN.

She and Her Husband Back  
as the "Hopes" on the  
Majestic.

FAIL TO PLAY THE PARTS.

Fellow Voyagers Discover Their  
Identity After One Day  
at Sea.

Under the names of Mr. and Mrs. A. I. Hope, Mary Anderson de Navarro and her husband, Antonio, sought yesterday to steal unnoticed into New York. They were passengers on the White Star liner Majestic. "Our Mary" kept her veil down and Antonio turned the collar of his coat well up over his ears, but none the less the vessel had been only one day at sea when the saloon passengers had penetrated the identity of the "Hopes."

Mrs. de Navarro descended the gangway yesterday with confidence, apparently cherishing the hope that New Yorkers had forgotten the once famous star.

On all sides of her she heard suddenly: "Look! There she is! That's Mary Anderson!"

And finally some one cried: "She hasn't changed a bit! I'd know her among a thousand!"

It is true that the years since 1889, the date of her last public appearance in America, have touched her but lightly. She is perhaps a trifle thinner than when critics pronounced her "a perfect Perdita."

Otherwise she looked yesterday like any one of her hundred pictures that have literally adorned the city's highways and byways.

Mrs. de Navarro wore a blue travelling gown heavily braided with gold, somewhat Mexican in effect. Her jacket was a short bolero, and her eyes were shaded by a hat of blue as deep tinted as they. Feather of the same hue half concealed her chestnut hair.

Upon the landing she fell into the arms of her mother, Mrs. Hamilton Griffin, and then tenderly embraced her aged stepfather, the celebrated doctor.

Then "Our Mary" made an attempt to escape from under the battery of eyes that were fastened upon her. But it was useless. To an interviewer she said: "I am surprised to think that people have not lost interest in me by this time. I thought that by coming incognito we should not awaken old memories."

The voyage over was delightful and I enjoyed every moment of it. The weather was beautiful the entire trip. The sea was calm and I did not suffer in the least."

As soon as their language had been passed the Navarros stopped into a carriage with Mr. and Mrs. Griffin and drove to the house of Mr. de Navarro's father, at No. 12 West Forty-sixth street.

CONNECTICUT COMPANY  
GETS ITS FRANCHISE.

Mt. Vernon Aldermen Vote in Its Favor  
After a Year of Determined  
Opposition.

After a stormy session, which began on Tuesday evening and lasted till after midnight, the Mount Vernon Board of Aldermen granted a fifty-year franchise to the New York, Westchester and Connecticut Traction Company, which will enable it to grind down Westchester County with trolley roads parallel to the present Huckleberry system.

The Connecticut Company has already a franchise to operate as far as Chester Hill, and has been endeavoring for a year to get into Mount Vernon. The Union Company has fought its rival successfully herebefore, the Board of Aldermen having invariably voted against the franchise.

The change was brought about by Aldermen Hermes and Wadsworth, Republicans, joining the opposition. Republican politicians talk of asking the State committee to investigate the matter.

"STAR OF HOPE" APPEARS  
FROM CELL 1,500, SING SING.

Convicts' Own Newspaper Appears  
with Articles Signed with the  
Cell Numbers.

A bright little eight-page newspaper, entitled Star of Hope, was issued yesterday for the first time from Sing Sing Prison. The caption is a piece of artistic work from the pen of Richard Sylvester, a former inmate of the prison and teacher of the art school. It takes in a view up the country from the prison.

There are three broad columns to the page, and the whole is on fine paper, handsomely printed and attractively arranged. To games are given, only the cell numbers of the writers. The editor, for instance, is "No. 1,500." The first page contains two articles, "Parole Legislation," by No. 1,780, and "Degeneracy's Revenge," by No. 33, "Dure's Ghost," by No. 333, and "Reform in Prison," all the second page.

Warden Saxe has two cards telling how he had been intending to produce such a paper, something about his coming to the wardenship, and expressing his regret at leaving them just as the paper is launched.

Madame Calve's Tombstone.  
Paris, April 26.—The report printed in the Figaro that Madame Calve has approved a design for her tombstone is confirmed with authority.

## BLACK EYES GLARE AT ARCHITECT HARDING.



Mrs. George E. Harding, Who Accuses Her Husband of Assault.

She is the wife of the well-known architect, who lives in a fine mansion on Staten Island. She says he struck her in the face and blackened her eyes during a quarrel at their home. He denies her charge and says she hit him first.

## Wife of the Rich Staten Islander Accuses Him of Assault.

SHE HALES HIM TO COURT.

Husband Says She Hit Him First  
in a Midnight Scrimmage  
at Their Home.

The society folk on the north shore of Staten Island say that Lawyer Charles Hess has spoiled the only good morsel of gossip the borough of Richmond has had for some time. For several days no topic has been more talked about than the alleged beating of Mrs. George E. Harding by her husband, the architect, and yesterday morning a score of the good women of the island were on hand at the little courthouse at Stapleton to hear the particulars.

Mr. Harding and his lawyer, M. L. Ryan, of New Brighton, where the Hardings live, were ready to go on with the case. So was Mrs. Harding, but Lawyer Hess failed to appear until nearly an hour after the case had been called, and then Justice Crook, to the mortification of the fashionable assembly, decided not to postpone the examination, but to dismiss the complaint.

As Architect Harding was leaving the courtroom for his office in Manhattan, Lawyer Hess telephoned from New Brighton that he had made a mistake and gone to the wrong courthouse. Later when he arrived, Mrs. Harding was furious, particularly with the Judge, for throwing out her case, and instructed her lawyer to bring another charge of assault.

She accuses her husband of striking her and blackening her eyes on April 13.

Mrs. Harding is a tall, handsome woman with dark hair and eyes, twenty-five years the junior of her husband. He is a wealthy architect of this city, and the designer of many of the downtown skyscrapers. The family home, on Richmond Terrace, overlooking the bay, is a solid-looking Greco-Italian with tiled pillars, in the centre of ornamental grounds. Behind it are stables and greenhouses.

The couple have four children and then there is a twenty-year-old daughter by Mr. Harding's first wife. The family moves in the best society on the north shore.

The cause which took the fashionable women of the borough to court yesterday morning happened on Mr. Harding's sixtieth birthday. He celebrated it by taking Mrs. Harding to dinner and then to the theatre in this city. The disagreement began on the boat, going down the river, and grew warmer when they reached home. Mr. Harding accused his wife of nagging him, and from that point reports differ.

Mr. Harding says his wife slapped his face, and she says in her complaint that he not only slapped her face but actually blackened both her eyes.

Meanwhile they continued to live under the same roof. But Mrs. Harding went into retirement until last Tuesday, when she drove over to Stapleton and made complaint against her husband. No attempt was made to arrest him. Inside the home all went on as formerly, with the exception that husband and wife held no communication.

Friends dined with them on Tuesday and one remained to breakfast yesterday morning. A little before 10 o'clock Mr. Harding in a clear, ordered a pair of boys to be called up and drove down to court. A little afterward Mrs. Harding drove over in the family carriage.

Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Harding will say anything about the case, but the one who denies blackening her eyes and she denies having struck him first. After the case had been dismissed Justice Crook said that Hess's mistake was pardonable, as he was also holding court in New Brighton for Justice Morris, now on his wedding tour, and the lawyer mixed up the two courthouses.

"I hope, however, the mistake of Mrs. Harding, but the matter," said the Justice. "I held the case for nearly an hour and dismissed it when I felt that the lawyer would not appear."

## LAWYER'S FLIGHT CUT SHORT.

Wanted for Embezzlement in Pennsylvania and Had Jumped His Bail.

Hiram S. Hoffman, a prominent lawyer, and former District Attorney of Berks County, Pa., was arrested yesterday in Jersey City as a fugitive from justice.

Sheriff Probst, of Berks County, traced him to Jersey City. He was arrested just as he was about to come to New York.

Some School Sites  
CANNOT BE ABANDONED.

But Condemnation Proceedings on All Others Will Be Suspended Because of Lack of Funds.

The Board of Education received yesterday Corporation Counsel Whalen's reply to the request of the board that all proceedings in condemnation for land desired as sites for schools be abandoned on account of lack of funds. Mr. Whalen said he would take no further steps except in the cases where title had already been vested in the city; these may not be abandoned.

These sites are as follows: Fifteenth and Sixteenth streets, First avenue and Livingston place; Fifty-eighth street and Tenth avenue; Boston Road, One Hundred and Sixty-sixth street and Jackson avenue; One Hundred and First and One Hundred and Second streets, Amsterdam and Columbus avenues; Sixty-sixth and Sixty-seventh streets, First avenue; Avenue A; One Hundred and Forty-first street, Eighth and Edgecombe avenues, and Seventy-sixth street, Second and Third avenues.

Commissioner O'Brien introduced a resolution asking the Municipal Assembly to appropriate \$3,000,000 for buildings and new sites in the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx, and \$3,000,000 for the Borough of Brooklyn.

A resolution asking for the disbursing of the general fund for 1898, which was granted to Brooklyn and taken from Manhattan and the Bronx, was tabled after an arduous debate. Commissioners O'Brien and Burke voting with the Brooklyn members against it.

It was resolved to ask for an issue of bonds to the sum of \$30,000 for a school at Sheriff, East Houston and Stanton streets.

PORTER SEES M'KINLEY.  
President Saves His Convalescent Secretary the Toil of Climbing Stairs.

Washington, April 26.—John Addison Porter, secretary to the President, who has been ill for some weeks, was able to take a drive today. He went over to the White House and saw the President for a few minutes in the private apartments downstairs. Mr. Porter did not feel able to climb the stairs.

Porter left here in the afternoon for Atlantic City, accompanied by Mrs. Porter.

## IMPLICATE WILLIS IN A BOLD FRAUD.

Witnesses Make a Startling  
Chain of Evidence as  
to Conspiracy.

SENT MEN TO CONTRACTOR

Testimony That He Steered  
Land Owners in the Direction  
of His Brother-in-law.

Further testimony tending to support the charge of conspiracy against Theodore B. Willis, former Republican City Works Commissioner, of Brooklyn, and his brother-in-law, former Police Commissioner William E. Phillips, was adduced at yesterday's session of the trial in Part N., of the Supreme Court, Brooklyn.

Witnesses testified that Willis was cognizant of negotiations pending for the purchase of private property within the city was to acquire, and that Phillips himself bought the property through a second party named Robert C. Denton.

Phillips afterward, it was alleged, sold the property to the city at a much advanced figure. This evidence was brought out after it had been shown by the prosecution that the land purchased by Phillips had been surveyed by the city's engineer for the purpose of having the same ultimately acquired by the city for the protection of the water supply.

The District Attorney said yesterday that in this particular transaction he had directed the evidence close to Willis.

The important witness of the day was Robert C. Denton, a fisherman, of Hempstead, L. I., who testified that he acted for Phillips in the purchase of the land around Valley Stream, on which the city had its eye, and that he received in person from Phillips \$200 for acting as the go-between for Phillips and the owner of the property. The evidence was strengthened by the testimony of the lawyer before whom the deeds were signed.

Ulrich Maurer, a real estate agent, testified that he was engaged by owners to sell land around Valley Stream, and that when he learned that the city contemplated making land purchases in that section he called on Commissioner Willis.

Willis told him the city had no money with which to buy land, and advised him to see Daniel Doody, who had testified the day before that he paid money to Phillips for contracts, and that he had made such payments after he had been sent to see Phillips by Commissioner Willis.

Witness Maurer called on Doody, who afterward introduced him to Phillips. Then the property was looked over, and the introduction took place in the Municipal building. It was at a subsequent meeting with Phillips that the latter said to Maurer: "I have a customer for your property, and therefore introduce me to him."

Phillips, who was waiting in the office, said: "Here is the gentleman who will buy the property."

The property was purchased by Denton for \$3,135, who later sold it to the city at an advanced figure and turned the money over to Phillips, making the \$200 which he admitted he received for his part in the transaction. Contractor Doody was recalled and testified that the matter of the property was discussed with him by Phillips, and that he had given his consent to the sale.

Before he got the contract, however, he said he was required to pay two acres in favor of Willis, in payment of an old account which was outstanding against him on the books in Willis's hardware establishment.

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the police stop at the Althouse home that night? Was it because they did not accuse her? The fact remains that as between Mrs. George and Mrs. Althouse, the latter is the only one who can say under oath the knowledge of the defence, and I say the town is better off that she has gone."

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